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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Poland

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1. Although the International Union of Students (IUS) is an international organization, it is affiliated with the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) as only a mere formality. The IUS works independently and organizes its own activities. However, it cooperates with the WFDY in certain matters, such as world festivals. The IUS is concerned only with students whereas the WFDY is concerned with all youth.
2. The IUS, which was founded in 1946, is similar to the WFDY in that it has been infiltrated by the Communists and taken over by them; it also has a similar organizational structure. The Secretariat is the head body and, above that, there is the Executive Committee which meets twice a year, the Council which meets once a year, and the Congress which meets once every four years. Departments within the IUS have similar names and functions as those within the WFDY, i.e., the Liaison, Colonial, and Press Departments as well as an editorial board which supervised the publication of the IUS magazine, World Students. Source believes that this publication and other IUS publications have a higher standard than those published by the WFDY because the IUS staff members are generally more intelligent than those of the WFDY.
3. The IUS is financed by the Czechoslovak Government but does not have as many facilities or comforts as those provided by the Hungarian Government for the WFDY. To cover its Communist character, the IUS Secretariat presents the Council with a false budget once a year. This budget is based on the profits obtained from the sale of publicity material and from the organization's various activities. Deficits and assets, therefore, always balance.

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4. Among the activities sponsored by the IUS are the World University Summer Games and the World University Winter Games, each of which is held once every year. The IUS has also established scholarship grants at universities in the Soviet Union and in Satellite countries; these grants are given primarily to students in colonial countries. The IUS also maintains sanatoriums for students. One sanatorium is in Czechoslovakia while the other is in Peking, China; the latter is for the use of students in colonial countries.
5. In September 1953, [redacted] the elections of new IUS officers was held. The following persons, all of whom work at the headquarters in Prague, were elected:
- a. President: Giovanni Berlinguer (Italy) who had worked in the Prague headquarters only a very short time. Later, Berlinguer's passport expired and he was unable to obtain a new one to leave Italy.
 - b. General Secretary: Jiri Pelikan (Czechoslovakia) who replaced Berlinguer as president. Source described Pelikan as a very attractive person who was very nice and not a hard-core Communist.
 - c. Secretaries:
 - (1) Lionel Soto (Cuba)
 - (2) Luis Azcarate (Spain)
 - (3) Arthur Pike (Australia)
 - (4) Konstantin Khristov Telalov (Bulgaria)
5. At the Warsaw Congress, source was struck by the fact that discussions were so liberal. To maintain its international character, the IUS had anti-Communist student groups among its ranks. These groups had the status of observers but they actively participated in the IUS activities and attended the meetings. It is source's opinion that these anti-Communist groups, of which the British group was the most important, naively believed they could change the IUS' Communist policy by remaining members of the organization. Source believes that this "opposition" faction was important because IUS leaders could not always pass their motions due to the objections of these groups.

When the IUS was expelled from France in 1951-1952, the headquarters moved to Prague where it occupies an old three-story building. This building was formerly a residence and was poorly furnished. About 40 persons of various nationalities work at the headquarters as well as many Czech nationals. In addition, there are young male students who attend a university in Prague working there as part-time employees; these young men are of various nationalities.

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